

It is an unconventional war without borders—and it requires unconventional methods to win it. By taking the fight to the enemy, we have more opportunity to fight on our terms but on their ground—using our best soldiers and spies. So we fight in Baghdad and Bagram so the war is not fought in Boston, Boise, or Bolivar, MO.

I believe that it remains instructive to note that there are two major investigations ongoing in Washington. One, in relation to 9/11, asks why the Government did not act based on imperfect information. The other, in relation to Iraq, asks why the Government did act based on imperfect information. This helps us understand the predicament that any President faces in a hostile world where lives and freedom at stake with intelligence that can almost never be perfect and sometimes can be wrong.

In Afghanistan and Iraq, our people are facing hardship and death. Yet they are getting the job done. We have seen reenlistment ceremonies that are taking place in Iraq by our dedicated service men and women who are committed to staying until their mission is complete.

A central bank and Iraqi currency have been established months ahead of schedule. We went from 0–60,000 trained Iraqi security and military personnel in less than 5 months. Schools, which were formerly weapons storage depots, are open. Electricity has been restored to prewar levels and is delivered not just to Saddam's Bathist friends as before, but to the population at large. Hospitals are open, working, and caring for patients; and the political leadership of the country has begun coalescing. In Afghanistan, where there were once 800,000 boys in school, there are now 2.5 million boys and 1.5 million girls in school. Baghdad, which once got its news only from Saddam, Aljazeera and CNN, now may have more news sources than Washington, DC.

The Marshall Plan after World War II cost almost \$80 billion, in 1998 dollars, and we had roughly 100,000 troops in Germany for 4 years after the war. Who at that time asked after Pearl Harbor, how much was it going to cost to defeat the Japanese; who asked how much was it going to cost to defeat the Germans after they sank the Lusitania? The cost of the war on terror is great but it must be weighed against the human tragedy and economic costs of 9/11.

The supplemental appropriations bill that the Congress needs to pass out of conference is necessary to help protect our troops, win the peace and create conditions so that our troops can return home safely and victorious. The same resolution that the Senate voted 77–23 to authorize war almost 1 year ago expressly stated the need to restore a stable, peaceful Persian Gulf. Lets honor that commitment today and pass the supplemental appropriations bill.

We need to let our service men and women complete their mission so they can come home.

I say to our men and women serving here and abroad, to their families at home, and to those Saddam loyalists and terrorists who doubt our will; don't equate public discourse in a free society with weakness. We voted overwhelmingly to authorize to take the fight to the enemy and we have voted overwhelmingly to support our troops in the field and to help the Iraqi men, women, and children, who were until now, hopeless of living with peace and freedom.

We will not cut and run. We will not let those who have already paid the ultimate price die in vain. We will not turn our backs on the commitments we have made.

Some doubted our ability to turn back Nazism and communism but collectively, we did. Doubters that we can overcome terrorism will be just as wrong now as doubters were then.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina). The Senator from Arkansas.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I have risen on numerous occasions over the last several months to pay tribute to our Nation's troops serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, and across the globe in support of the war on terrorism. Today I would like to add to that ongoing tribute by honoring the troops of the 39th Infantry Brigade or "the Arkansas Brigade," as we know it at home. The 39th was recently mobilized for action in Iraq with troops pulling out this week for training in Fort Hood before a 12-month deployment in the Middle East.

Last weekend I had the honor of attending a send-off ceremony for the 39th Brigade in Little Rock. That ceremony brought together soldiers, families, friends, and loved ones to commemorate the occasion and to wish them the best in their mission. The send-off was not a celebration. In fact, it was a sober occasion. After all, no one relishes the prospect of traveling halfway around the world, far from family, friends, and home, to take on a dangerous but necessary mission.

But along with the sense of sobriety at the ceremony, there was an enormous sense of duty, honor, and pride among these individuals. These men and women recognized that they were taking on a great personal risk, but they also recognized that, in so doing, they are part of a long tradition of American soldiers taking up arms to defend our freedoms and to bring security and stability to the world. As their fathers and grandfathers and great grandfathers fought in the First and Second World Wars, in Korea, Vietnam, the gulf war, and in countless other conflicts in the last century, these men and women are embracing a new historic mission.

The 39th Infantry Brigade is the largest combat command in the Arkansas Army National Guard, with nearly 3,000 troops comprising 47 units from across the State. While this is the first time since World War II that the entire brigade has been activated for overseas service, the 39th has been remarkably active within Arkansas for decades.

At the Governor's behest, the 39th has been quick to respond in the event of State emergencies. When floods, tornadoes, forest fires, ice storms, and drought have struck Arkansas, the members of the 39th have been there to offer their expertise and to lend a hand to communities in need. The 39th has offered assistance to law enforcement in missing persons cases, anticrime efforts, and counterdrug programs. Members of the 39th have offered themselves for countless hours of leadership and volunteer service in their communities, in schools and churches, civic organizations, private businesses, law enforcement, and even elected office.

Consider, for example, the small town of Bradford just a few miles northeast of Little Rock. This town of 800 people is preparing to lose their mayor, their police chief, and the school librarian, all of whom are leaving for Iraq. While these temporary losses may bring temporary hardships, I have every confidence that these communities, Bradford and many others, will pull through.

I am happy to report that Bradford is already coping—Grebe Edens, a 78-year-old former school teacher who serves as the town's recorder and treasurer, will be serving in the mayor's place until he returns.

I ask unanimous consent that an October 24 Washington Post article about how the town of Bradford is coping be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 1.)

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, this is but one example of the effect this deployment will have on my home State of Arkansas. Many communities in Arkansas will no doubt be able to share similar stories of losing key personnel in the next 18 months.

Furthermore, let us not lose sight of the impact of this deployment on the families of these troops.

I was standing in that auditorium on Sunday visiting with mothers, aunts, daughters, as well as wives and children, and watching their faces with a sense of not knowing what is coming down the pike and yet being so incredibly proud of their loved ones who are serving this great Nation.

I have an October 27 newspaper story written by Stephen Ziegler, editor of the Searcy Daily Citizen in White County, AR.

Mr. Ziegler's story focuses on the troops of the Second Battalion, 153rd Brigade, and their families. Some are newly married, or have young children.

The stories illustrate the mixed emotions that many Arkansans experience

in seeing loved ones, friends, and neighbors leave to serve our great Nation.

Here is one young couple who are expecting a child in May. Here is a school superintendent who has been away from his job for 3 of the last 6 years on account of frequent deployments. Here is a young Army medic whose greatest fear is that he may see a friend die.

But coupled with the uncertainty is a clear sense of dedication and commitment.

I ask unanimous consent that this article from the Daily Citizen be printed in the RECORD following my remarks, so that we may be ever mindful of the effects of war both on those who serve and on those they leave behind.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 2.)

Mrs. LINCOLN. As recent events have made startlingly clear, the situation in Iraq remains dangerous.

It is true that some parts of the country—notably in the south and in the Kurdish north—have achieved a measure of stability and security. To the extent that stability has been achieved in these areas, it has been entirely attributable to the hard work, commitment, and ingenuity of American troops on the ground. We praise them for that.

Unfortunately, it is also true that parts of Iraq remain critically unstable, particularly in the country's central region around Baghdad and Tikrit. With these facts in mind, let us salute the remarkable courage of our men and women who are placing themselves at great risk to serve in bringing security and peace to Iraq. We owe them a tremendous, tremendous debt for this service and sacrifice.

Finally, I would like to once again pay tribute to the troops currently serving in Iraq—roughly 140,000 American troops, with an estimated 5,000 from Arkansas. Many have given their lives to this mission, and many more have been wounded, some quite seriously. Those who remain in Iraq, and those who are preparing to enter into rotation in theater, will be in our thoughts and prayers in the months to come. We pledge to take care of their families and loved ones who are left behind.

We wish our troops safety, we wish them success, and we wish them a swift and safe return to their homes and loved ones as soon as their service is complete.

Thank you, Mr. President.

EXHIBIT 1

[From washingtonpost.com, Oct. 24, 2003]

A TOWN'S LEADERS MARCHING OFF TO WAR

(By Lee Hockstader)

BRADFORD, AR.—For months, Paul Bunn had an inkling that his unit of the Arkansas National Guard would be shipped to Iraq, and there were a few things he wanted to get done before he left.

Such as running the drug dealers out of town, ensuring a safe supply of drinking water and compelling his more slovenly constituents to get rid of the junk in their yards—if necessary by fining them.

Bunn, 36, took office in January as the supercharged mayor of Bradford, a one-blinking-stoplight hamlet of cow pastures, low-slung houses, rickety shacks and modest churches set among the rice and soybean fields an hour's drive northeast of Little Rock. His impending departure for the Middle East—Bunn has already reported for training and expects to be in Baghdad early next year—has shaken this town of 800.

So has the scheduled deployment of the police chief, the school librarian and five other townsmen, all members of the 39th Infantry Brigade of the Arkansas National Guard.

"I'd say our town is paying one heck of a price, but to me it's a price worth paying," said Bunn, a former Army Special Forces soldier who fought in Panama and the Persian Gulf War.

The deployment of the 39th Infantry Brigade, announced in late September, means about 3,000 Arkansas Guardsmen from 47 units scattered across the state will be going to Iraq early next year as part of a major deployment with the Army's 1st Cavalry Division, based at Fort Hood, Tex. The troops are expected to replace soldiers of the 1st Armored Division who have been serving in Iraq since April.

For Arkansas, the effect is dramatic. Counting 2,000 guardsmen already deployed elsewhere overseas, including in Afghanistan, the departure of the 39th means that more than half the state's 11,000 guardsmen will be serving overseas. Only a handful of other states—Oklahoma, North Carolina, Washington—have a similarly large portion of their guardsmen serving overseas, according to the National Guard.

To the extent that Bradford—or at least its leadership—is being decapitated, the town is unusual. But it is also typical of communities that, disproportionately, are sending military men and women to serve in Iraq and other areas of conflict.

"Broadly speaking, [the military] tends to be more rural and more southern," said Doug Bandow, who has analyzed the demographics of the U.S. military for the Cato Institute, a think tank. "But it is also a broadly Middle America, middle-class force."

The departure of so many prominent citizens is causing ripple effects and dislocations not easily absorbed in so small a rural town. At the town's one school, for instance, the departure of the librarian, Nolan Brown, 57, a grandfather of nine who is a personnel clerk in the Guard, triggered a domino effect in which one new teacher was hired and three others, in the departments of math, science and social studies, were compelled to add or drop courses they had already begun.

At Bradford's somewhat misleadingly named city hall, a one-story red brick building that also houses the police and water departments, Mayor Bunn's powers have been transferred to Greba Edens, 78, a retired schoolteacher whose last specific memory of a combat casualty that touched her life involved a friend's brother—killed in World War II.

"I'm not moving into the mayor's office," said Edens, known locally as Miss Greba, the town's recorder-treasurer for 19 years, who by law will assume Bunn's duties until he returns. "But he made promises that he'd clean up the trashy places around town and try to get rid of some of the drugs, so I guess I'll try to do that."

Like the mayor and the librarian, the police chief, Josh Chambliss, 28, is expected to be gone from 18 months to two years on duty in Iraq. Chambliss, recently married, had been hoping to start a family, but those plans may be on hold for now. His five-officer police department, which deals mainly with domestic disputes, thefts and a methamphetamine drug problem common in small rural

towns, will be led in his absence by Michael Ray, the assistant chief.

Ray, 34, who counts the chief as well as the mayor among his best friends, seems slightly uneasy both at their departure and his own ascendance.

"In the last Gulf War, they were all surrendering to anyone who came along," said Ray, whose badge, affixed to his belt, still says assistant chief. "This time, it's just a whole different ballgame, and there's a good chance that some of [the Americans] aren't coming back."

Ray's apprehension about the fighting in Iraq is widely shared, even though most people in this resolutely conservative town are quick to say they support the troops as well as President Bush. Many say they want to see the troops "get over there, get the job done and get home quickly"—intoning their wishes almost like a mantra—and in practically the same breath acknowledge that they see no swift end to the fighting or the U.S. engagement in Iraq.

"We don't want to get into another situation like in Vietnam, of not supporting these people," said Larry Robinson, a county veterans services officer. "You bet we're behind them, and this is really bringing the Iraqi situation right to the front door. But this is a new type of war, and it worries me."

For his part, Bunn has no illusions about the toll that may result from the 39th Infantry Division's deployment. A sergeant who expects to be a Humvee squad leader in Iraq, Bunn has already bluntly told his two children and two stepchildren, ages 11 to 15, that he and some of his fellow guardsmen may not be coming home alive.

"I'm hard as woodpecker lips when it comes to this, but in this job here there's gonna be body bags coming home and bullets going downrange," he said. "I don't believe in lying to the kids about it."

Bunn worries nearly as much about what he is leaving behind in Bradford as what he will face in Iraq. He worries about his insulation business, in which he has several hundred thousands of dollars in loans, and whether it will survive his absence. He worries about miss Greba, the stand-in mayor, and whether she will be able to oversee an \$800,000 grant from the state that Bunn secured to improve the town's drinking water. He worries about what will happen in the event of tornadoes hitting Arkansas—Bradford lies in the heart of twister country—in the absence of thousands of the state's National Guard troops.

"I'm a wheeler-dealer, and it doesn't bother me to pick up the phone and call the governor," Bunn said. "But I'm not even going to try over there. My job now is to be a soldier and take the guys I got and bring them over there and bring them back safe."

Yet he also worries about making it back to Bradford for his stepson Bradley's high school graduation in the spring of 2005. And he frets about his friend Chambliss, a staff sergeant in the Guard who has never been in combat.

"Josh to me is a special person," Bunn said of his police chief. "Not too many people that you find who have an innocence about them, and Josh does. . . . That innocence will be shattered, and that's what bothers me."

Bunn believes he will be prepared for Iraq, but the other guardsmen are much less experienced. Nolan Brown, the school librarian, was in Vietnam during the Tet Offensive of 1968, but he was a clerk in a dental unit at the time, not involved in combat.

The younger men enlisted, in some cases while still in high school, were lured mainly by the Guard's generous provisions for helping pay for college and health insurance. Few imagined they would be heading off to combat anytime soon.

Two of them, both privates in the Guard, wandered into the Bradford school the other day dressed in green fatigues, their hair cropped short. One, Richard Farmer, 21, a supply specialist, joined the Guard a few years ago when he was still in school. The other, Wesley Hodges, 20, an administrative assistant in the Guard, joined shortly thereafter.

Asked if they would have joined then had they known it would mean duty in Iraq, the two shrugged and mumbled an unconvincing "yeah."

EXHIBIT II

[From the Daily Citizen, Oct. 27, 2003]

FOCUS ON WHITE COUNTY: CALLED TO DUTY

(By Stephen Zeigler)

White County gave a rousing sendoff Friday at Spring Park in Searcy to the 140 local troops of the 39th Infantry Brigade who begin heading to Fort Hood Tuesday. From there, the troops go to Iraq sometime in March.

There were balloons, hugs and tributes.

But it is the third deployment since 1998 for members of the Second Battalion, 153rd Brigade, who went to Kuwait on the Iraq border in 1999 and then to Egypt in 2001, just returning in August.

It is safe to say they were hoping for an extended time home before being deployed again.

The honor to White County is significant, but so are the sacrifices. Lt. Sgt. Kirk Van Pelt estimates the soldiers' active duty time will be 18 months, including deployment to Iraq for a year.

Many businesses will have to compensate for the loss of valued employees for that period. Many cities will lose public officials, including police and firemen.

Bradford is losing a mayor. The Riverside School District is losing a superintendent.

Some soldiers are newly married. Some are leaving behind pregnant wives. Many families are losing a parent for a time very important in children's lives.

The soldiers themselves face worries about what to expect in Iraq, concerns for their wives and children, and uncertainties about their safety and their friends' safety.

But they are called to duty. Here are just some of their stories.

Command Sergeant Major James "Larry" Nowlin, 55, was born in Searcy and now lives in Jonesboro.

"For the first 30 years, the only tours I went on were to Honduras, Panama, and Wales, each for two weeks' training. After 9/11, everything changed," Nowlin said.

He has two boys, but doesn't worry too much about them because they are 23 and 19. He does worry about the other families, however.

"We'll be so busy we'll think about our families when we have time, but the time will pass so fast for us. The wives will be pulling the load for the whole family while we're gone. A lot of wives are expecting."

Nowlin has been superintendent of the Riverside School District for six years.

For three of those, he has been gone.

"I always try to e-mail with my students but will probably be limited this time," Nowlin said. "When we were in Egypt I e-mailed with about 60. They want to know what the kids are like there, the culture, the schools. When I got back from Kuwait they'd made me a quilt with messages on it, and they made me a throw when I got back from Egypt."

His biggest worry is the usual one for officers.

"What I'm scared of is the possibility of losing soldiers. The thought of having to notify families that their loved ones might not

come back or be disabled is the biggest fear I have. We're fixing to put 3,000 soldiers over there from Arkansas, altogether in one group. That's a concern."

Staff Sergeant Joshua Stewart, 24, was married in July to Dana Martin from rural White County, where they both went to White County Central school. They now live near Fayetteville in West Fork. Dana is attending the University of Arkansas.

"We got a phone call the unit had been put on duty the day our honeymoon in Pigeon Forge ended," Stewart said. "I wasn't surprised, but I'm not at all eager to go. My enlistment ended last February, but I was involuntarily extended."

"I wasn't married or thought that I would be soon when I wanted to quit in February."

"It's not what I wanted in the first six months of my marriage but I'm prepared. What we'll face will be different from our training. A lot of weight will bear down on every decision we make. The outcome will be more than a slap on the wrist if we make a mistake."

Pfc. Tyson Weaver, medic, 20, of Little Rock, has been in the Guard two years and three months. He and his wife Jennifer, 19, were married May 31.

"I had a feeling I was going to be able to come home from training and raise my family," said Weaver. "This was a complete shock to me, but I'm ready to go do my job and come back to my family."

Weaver says his extended family gave him a party at his grandmother's house a couple of months ago.

"When I was walking out the door in my greens, my grandmother started crying because it's the last time I'll see her for about 18 months. At first I was completely torn up, but then I remembered this is what I signed up to do, so there's no point crying about it. If you're accepting taxpayer money you can't gripe when you're called to do your job."

Even at 20, Weaver has seen what happened to some veterans of the Vietnam war. He fears being traumatized by what he may see.

"I'm most afraid of changing, of being a different person when I get back. I believe now I'm a happy person. I'm secure and things don't get to me. I'm afraid of coming back a hard-hearted person, cold to my family. That's not who I am."

Weaver says he will try to keep himself centered with lots of letters and communication back home.

He and Jennifer have a baby girl, Olivia, due Christmas day.

"We're coming home Dec. 20 to Jan. 3, so I'll be there when the baby's born. It tears me up. She'll be walking and talking when I finally get home. But my wife is a very strong person. She'll cope."

Like many other medics, Weaver fears another thing.

"I'm scared of having to bag one of my buddies."

Specialist Jeremy Abele, 21, of Bald Knob, has been in the Guard four years. He and his girlfriend Jennifer have been together 14 months.

"I slightly expected it but it hasn't bothered me yet. I won't think about it until I get there. I'm a medic, so I'll probably see things a lot of doctors in a hospital don't see. I'm taking it day by day."

Abele's 16-year-old brother Derreck was in school Friday in Bald Knob, missing the Spring Park tribute.

"I don't want him to enlist. I don't want him to go through this."

Sgt. Randall Martin, 27, of Searcy, will turn 27 on Monday. He has been in the guard 7.5 years, went to Kuwait in '99 and Egypt in '02, and is first-year nursing student at ASU-Searcy.

"I wasn't expecting it so soon. You have mixed emotions. You feel good you're selected out of so many units in the nation. But sometimes, it's sad and heartbreaking to miss out on the experience of being there."

He and his wife Kelly have a child due May 10, to be named Mac if it's a boy, Emma if a girl.

Kelly said, "I just try to be positive. I know he likes the military and that's what he chooses to do so there's not much I can do about it. I have a great support system in Randall's mom and my grandparents."

Specialist James Poyner, medic, 26, from Bald Knob, has served 7.5 years and also has just returned from Egypt. His wife Leah was born in Searcy and raised in Bald Knob. They were married in 1998. They, too, heard about the new deployment in July.

"I wasn't expecting it, neither was my wife. These two deployments back-to-back are really difficult. I've got a four-year scholarship to UALR. Now it'll take seven years."

The timing is as bad for him as for most.

"Leah's upset. We're best friends and it's hard to be away from each other. It's time to start having children, but we don't want to be apart for that."

Poyner does operations and network administration for a restaurant equipment company in Searcy. His absence will be stress on his boss, John Faucett, and the company, he said, but added that Faucett has been very supportive.

"He's a true patriot, and he says my job will be waiting. It's a great company, and going back to it is something I'll think about every day to keep me going in Iraq."

Poyner is confident about his readiness.

"I'm in a treatment squad, recently moved from the field. We'll see 80-100 percent of the injuries, and we're not treating strangers, they'll be friends and guys I'm close to. Seeing them go through pain is something I'm trying to be prepared for. This past summer camp a friend went down with heat stroke and stopped breathing. We cut him out of his clothes and doused him with water, and he's OK. When you're doing the treatment you're in a zone doing the work."

Sgt. Jerome Geroge, 40, has served 17 years, counting two in the Army. He is originally from Holly Grove, moving to Searcy in late 1994.

His wife Bambi is the president of the White County Family Readiness Group. They have four children: Chance, 13; Annie, 12; Hunter, 10; Savanna, 8.

"The last time I was deployed, in Egypt, the loss was apparent in Chance. He didn't get in trouble or anything, but his grades fell. A dad needs to be there to explain things at that age," George said.

"I'll miss the holidays, the anniversaries, the birthdays, children's dance recitals and sports. I'll miss part of their childhoods. What'll happen is there's a transition period when you get back. You have to be really careful what you do and say, because the spouse is used to being the total parent figure. It's a transition for the spouse, the kids, everybody."

"When I told the kids, I didn't tell them all at the same time. I told the oldest first, then the next, then we were all together telling the youngest. Let's just say they weren't happy, the wife wasn't happy, but we've done it before and it's what I have to do."

[From CNN.com, Oct. 5, 2003]

ARKANSAS TOWN'S MAYOR, POLICE CHIEF,
LIBRARIAN CALLED TO IRAQ

BRADFORD, AR.—The mayor, police chief and school librarian are all leaving for military duty Monday that is expected to take them to Iraq, and the residents left behind in

this tiny town of 800 are scrambling to fill their roles.

At the local cafe and in school hallways, the callup and what to do about the loss of city leaders is the talk of the town. At city hall, meanwhile, officials have been rushing to prepare paperwork necessary to transfer the mayor's power to a 78-year-old retired school teacher.

The soon-to-be acting police chief says Bradford is just one example of how the war in Iraq has affected small town America.

"One way or another we're going to handle it," said Michael Ray, who will become the new police chief, along with his job as a school resources officer. "It's going to be OK. I'm going to run it the same way as if the chief was here."

In addition to Mayor Paul Bunn, Chief Josh Chambliss and librarian Nolan Brown, five other citizens of this farm town have received orders to report to Fort Hood, Texas. There, they will prepare for a tour of duty in Iraq that is expected to put them in Iraq by Christmas.

Greba Edens, the town's recorder-treasurer, will take over for the 35-year-old mayor. Previously, she spent 24 years as Bradford's fourth-grade teacher.

"Most of the people on the city council now, she's paddled them before," Bunn said. Edens said she plans to carry on with Bunn's ideas. "As the mayor says, we're a family here," she said.

At the elementary school, Brown was organizing the library ahead of his deployment. He served in Vietnam and has been in the National Guard for 31 years. Now 57, he was hoping to leave the guard at age 60.

"I've got stuff scattered from here to there getting ready," he said. "I want to leave it as if I'm not coming back."

"The children here, they ask me, 'Are you going? When are you going?'" he said. "They know there's some turmoil somewhere. I tell them they may not take me because of my age . . . but it would be unwise not to prepare them."

The school had a going-away party for Brown in the cafeteria, presenting him with a cake that read, "Our prayers are with you." The school will shuffle around teachers to make up for Brown's absence.

After nine years at the school, all the students know him. As he leaves, he shouts a goodbye to his cousin's son in the hallway.

"Tell your Mom, since things have escalated, that I may not get to see her," he said to the boy. "Tell her I'll miss her and love her."

Brown says he's edgy about his departure, as are his wife and the three children they care for. But he's adamant that he has to give back to a country that gave him an education.

"The U.S. has been very good to me," he said, adding he believes citizens need "to be willing to do whatever it takes to make sure kids in the future have the same opportunities that we have."

Unlike Brown, who works in a headquarters group, the police chief and the mayor are infantry soldiers responsible for more dangerous security duty.

"I'll make a deal with the president," said Bunn, who has fought in Panama and in the Gulf War. "I'll go over there, but I'm not willing to die. Maybe it's because I've got kids now."

Bunn could be gone for up to two years. Even if he stays that long, he'll still have over a year left of his term as mayor when he returns.

Chambliss, 28, has been the town's police chief since 2001. He's not worried about Bradford, which is about 70 miles northeast of Little Rock. He said he expects the town's other four officers to continue to man the

school crossings and attend all the ball games.

"I'm curious to see what the next 18 months hold, not for me but for Bradford," Chambliss said. "I want to come back into town and see the progress."

Chambliss said that he's upset to leave his wife. They were planning to start a family soon.

He is spending the rest of his time in Bradford saying goodbye to friends and family. He had lunch at his regular spot, the Front St. Cafe, just down the road from the police station.

The cafe's owner and waitress, Marcia Pressler, said she gave him that day's \$4.95 plate special of roast beef, potatoes and carrots on the house.

"It's like a part of your family going off," she said. "I felt like I'm feeding him his last supper."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. How much time is remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Seven and one-half minutes.

Mr. DURBIN. Thank you, Mr. President.

GUARD AND RESERVE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I salute my colleague from Arkansas for the tribute she made to this unit in her home State of Arkansas. Every one of us in the Senate can tell a similar story. But she tells us so well about the lives that are affected by the activation of Guard and Reserve men and women who leave important lives and careers and step aside to serve their Nation.

That is why it is so troubling that I come to the floor today to report for those who follow the Senate that yesterday in the conference committee of the Appropriations Committee where we met to discuss the \$87 billion request of the President, we stripped out a provision which had been adopted on the Senate floor. I would like to describe it to those who want to stand behind the families of those activated Guard and Reserve men and women.

We have 1.2 million Guard and Reserve in the United States. Ten percent of them work for the Federal Government, when they are not serving in the Guard and Reserve. At the present moment, of the 120,000 Federal employees with the Guard and Reserve, 23,000 have been activated. They include some people who are in the unit the Senator from Arkansas just described.

I offered an amendment on the floor that said when you activate a Federal employee to the Guard and Reserve, the Federal Government agency that the person works for will make up any shortfall and any difference in income while that Guard or Reserve person is on active duty. That is not a radical suggestion. There are dozens of State governments and local units of government that already do that, including my home State of Illinois and the City of Chicago.

If you are a Chicago policeman in the Guard and you are activated, the City

of Chicago stands behind you and says we will make up the difference in pay if there is a shortfall so that there is no hardship on your family. That amendment passed the floor of the Senate 96 to 3. Yesterday it was stripped out of the conference committee report that is being considered. It is \$87 billion.

Every day we hear Senators come to the floor singing the praises, deservedly, of the men and women in uniform to say we stand in solidarity with them and their families as they fight for America. These same Members who come to the floor praising the guardsmen and reservists also voted for my amendment, saying let us hold them harmless if they go off to serve our Nation for 6 months, or 12 months, or 16 months. They all voted for this amendment.

Yesterday, on a party-line vote, with every Republican Senator voting no, they took this provision out of the bill. Many of the same Senators who just a few days ago had voted on the floor for this provision reversed their position and said no, the Federal Government will not set an example and will not make up the difference in pay for those thousands of Federal employees activated in the Guard and Reserve. That is unfair and it is unfortunate. Those who come here to wave the flag about their support for our fighting men and women weren't there yesterday on this crucial vote in this conference committee.

I hope those across America who follow this debate and who may know some of these families affected by this amendment will contact their Senators and tell them it was a grave injustice that we allowed this to occur. It was a real disappointment to me. We could have done the right thing yesterday, but, sadly, we did not.

IRAQ

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I listened earlier to the Senator from Missouri talking about the State of affairs in Iraq. I would like to comment on that very briefly.

If I understood his argument, he said that 6 months after hostilities had ended—at least the military operation as the President described it, and after the efforts of different inspectors and the expenditure of millions of dollars—he believed the fact that Dr. David Kay couldn't produce any evidence whatsoever of weapons of mass destruction did not reflect on statements made by this administration before we invaded Iraq. I think that is clearly wrong.

This has been declassified. We said we knew of 550 sites of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq before we invaded—550 of them. Doesn't it stand to reason that these inspectors would go to those sites first to find the weapons of mass destruction? Isn't it revealing that they have come up with no evidence whatsoever? What a tremendous breakdown in intelligence gathering—that 550 suspected sites have now turned up